

Mr. Speaker, since September 11 and our war against terrorism and the injuries to our troops coming from Afghanistan, my wife and I, and actually my wife more than I, have been regular visitors to the Army Hospital at Walter Reed and to the Naval Hospital in Bethesda to provide gifts, provide some comfort, and to do what they need and their families need in a time of real crisis in their life.

It brings tears to my eyes when I see these young kids with a leg or arm missing. One soldier was blinded. There are a lot of them out there now, sailors, soldiers, Marines, and even some Air Force folks. It is a sad time. But the sadness goes away when I talk to these kids. They are unbelievable. They are laying there with their whole life changed for the balance of their life. They love this country. They believe in the defense of this country, and they want to get back to the action, although many of them will not be able to because of their injuries.

But throughout the many, many conversations that we have through the day or on the weekends, one thing comes to the fore: How does my country feel about me? Am I going to come back and be ridiculed like some of my colleagues were from Vietnam?

Mr. Speaker, they worry about how does America feel about them. We do our best to convince them that America loves them, America appreciates them. I think a strong vote on passage of this bill is a strong message to those injured in our hospitals today and those still on the battlefield today risking their lives, a strong message to them, young Americans, young soldiers, your country loves you and respects you and appreciates you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the previous question on the conference report is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the conference report.

The conference report was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH APRIL 29, 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 12, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable WAYNE T. GILCHREST to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through April 29, 2003.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Without objection, the appointment is accepted.

There was objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 38) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 38

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Friday, April 11, 2003, or Saturday, April 12, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 28, 2003, or until such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Saturday, April 12, 2003, through Friday, April 18, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2003, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE PASSES WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL UNANIMOUSLY

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, we just passed a wartime supplemental, and I wanted to make a note that it was unanimously done. I think it is a marvelous tribute to this country and this body that when this country is faced with the challenges that we have in front of us and our young people are deployed to protect us and our interests, that we bind together as a team, that we bind together as a country and that our leadership is able to take us to where we need to go.

The work that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) have done in working with the Senate is a mar-

velous tribute to their skills as legislators, and to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) and the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) as Speaker and minority leader here in the House, they have my commendations. I am pleased to be here and be part of this momentous occasion.

AMERICA LOVES HER TROOPS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to confirm my support for the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act that we just passed unanimously in this House.

I rise to answer the question of the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and say resoundingly that America loves her troops, loves the young men and women who are serving, respects them, and offers our sympathy to those who lost their lives, their love to those who are now mending. And, as well, we will never forget our MIAs and POWs.

I, too, have visited our troops in our hospitals in this region, visited the Veterans Hospital, reinforced the fact that we believe in those who have been willing to offer the ultimate sacrifice.

I think it is important today, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge as well that the beauty of America is that we acknowledge and appreciate dissent. Just a few blocks away today there are protesters against the continuation of this war. There will be those who will be promoting and supporting the troops. I agree with both because America is a place that fondles and cherishes its democracy. I have dissented against the war, but I have not dissented against America or its troops, and I believe in order to be prosperous we must work together, as we have done in this emergency wartime supplemental which I have supported, so we can have a lasting peace.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the ranking member and all the staff for their steadfastness. I want to thank them for providing to airline employees the 26 extra weeks that we fought for since September 11. Many have been laid off and not working.

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I want to thank them, as well, for the homeland security moneys that will help some of our cities and rural areas, and I want to fight with them for more money for the many cities who have paid out moneys, Mr. Speaker, and have yet not been able to be reimbursed.

I would like to thank them in particular for the judgment that they have used with the defense funds so that there is not such a discretion, but it has been put in certain position to be oversight, or given oversight by this